

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9701

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 9911

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT PORG SHUM

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: STATE 182813

1. IN ADDITION TO PERIODIC APPROACHES EMBASSY MAKES TO GOI OFFICIALS EMPHSSIZING STRONG USG INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAA HUMAN RIGHTS REQUIREMENTS, EMBASSY MAKING OTHER EFFORTS TO EFFECT IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING OF AND ADHERENCE TO INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED STANDARDS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

2. IN EDUCATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE AREA, MISSION HAS NOMINATED AND SENT TO US MANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, LEGISLATORS, JOURNALISTS, AND OTHERS WHO ARE WORKING QUIETLY AND INDIRECTLY, BUT NEVERTHELESS EFFECTIVELY, TOWARD BUILDING INSTITUTIONS THAT ENHANCE HUMAN RIGHTS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE SENT MANY JOURNALISTS, FOR TRAINING AND AS LEADER GRANTEES, WHO ARE IDENTIFIED WITH MODERNIST PROGRESSIVE AND DEMOCRATIC ELEMENTS IN INDONESIA. ALSO, A LEADING AND HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL INDONESIAN JURIST WHO IS ACTIVE IN LAW REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT WILL SOON PARTICIPATE IN THE WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW CONFERENCE WITH MISSION FUNDING. WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK OTHER CANDIDATES FOR EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WHO, AMONG OTHER QUALITIES, CONFIDENTIAL

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ARE LIKELY TO BENEFIT HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS.

3. IN UNOFFICIAL, INFORMAL CONTACTS, MISSION OFFICERS HAVE ESTABLISHED WIDE RANGE OF CONTACTS OUTSIDE OFFICIAL ESTABLISHMENT WHOSE PERCEPTIONS OFTEN DIVERGE FROM OFFICIAL VIEWS. WE HAVE USED THESE, PARTICULARLY, IN GIVING US VISITORS WIDER VIEW OF INDONESIAN ATTITUDES AND PROBLEMS. CONTACTS INCLUDE LAWYERS, ACADEMICS, STUDENTS, JOURNALISTS AND POLITICAL LEADERS, WHO SUPPORT MODERNIZING IDEAS AND INSTITUTIONS WHICH LEAD TO ENHANCED PROTECTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

4. NEITHER THIS EMBASSY NOT OTHER INTERESTED EMBASSIES EG(AUSTRALIA, NETHERLANDS) HAVE MADE PRACTICE OF HAVING OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND TRIALS THAT FOCUS ON POLITICAL DIFFERENCES OR INVOLVE ALLEGED INFRACTIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. PROMINENT CRIMINAL TRIALS IN INDONESIA ARE EXTENSIVELY COVERED BY LOCAL PRESS, AND PRESENCE OF EMOFFS AT TRIALS COULD CREATE SPECULATION ABOUT US MOTIVES OR INTEREST IN CASES THAT WOULD NEITHER FURTHER HUMAN RIGHTS CAUSE NOT OTHER US INTERESTS HERE.

5. EMBASSY HAS ALSO BEEN LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR POSSIBLE VISIT BY CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION INTERESTED IN HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS BY EXPLAINING CONGRESSIONAL CONCERNS TO APPROPRIATE GOI OFFICIALS AND DETERMINING WHAT TYPE OF PROGRAM MIGHT BE POSSIBLE FOR SUCH VISIT.

6. IN WHATEVER WE DO, HOWEVER, WE BEAR IN MIND THAT
A) THERE ARE STRONG SENSITIVITIES IN INDONESIA TOWARD ACTIVITIES THAT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS "FOREIGN INTER-FERENCE," AND B) EXPERIENCE SUGGESTS THAT QUIET, INFORMAL APPROACH HAS ALREADY BEEN EFFECTIVE IN PROMOTING GREATER SENSITIVITY TOWARD HUMAN RIGHTS ON PART INDONESIAN LEADERSHIP. THERE ARE SIGNS OF FAVORABLE HUMAN RIGHTS TREND IN INDONEIA, SUCH AS RELEASE OF OVER HALF OF JANUARY 1974 DETAINEES, SERIOUS REVIEW OF 1965 DETAINEE PROBLEM, AND LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS ON PROMINENT INTTELCTUALS SUCH AS MOCHTAR LUBIS AND SOEDJATMOKO. EMBASSY BELIEVES ITS CURRENT APPROACH HAS PLAYED SOME PART IN ENCOURAGING THIS TREND. WE DOUBT MORE DRAMTIC GESTURES WOULD BE
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